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1995/07/28

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APPROVED BY: EAP/P: JOHTA

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P 280749Z JUL 95
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU PRIORITY
AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL NANA PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SHENYANG PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BOMH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITYCHJUSMAG SEOUL KS PRIORITY
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CC/BJ/CJ/EJ/PAJ/SJS// PRIORITY
SACINUNC KS PRIORITY
USCINUNC SEOUL KS PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP PRIORITY
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//POLAD// PRIORITY
USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY

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USIA FOR EA; TOKYO FOR CYNKIN YAMAUCHI; MOSCOW FOR FERGIN

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL OPRC XE US
SUBJECT: JULY 27 PRESS GUIDANCE FOR THE EAP REGIONALL POSTS -- ALSO FOR USIS
SECDEF -- ALSO FOR OASD/PA
USCINCPAC FOR EPA SALMON
USVIENNA FOR UNVIE
PARIS FOR ZEYA
BEIJING -- PASS CHENGDU

1. INDEX

--FREEDOM HOUSE (PARA 2)
--CHINA: UPDATE ON HARRY WU (PARAS 3-4)
--JAPAN: POW LAWSUIT (PARAS 5-6)
--SINGAPORE: 1HT LIBEL TRIAL (PARAS 5 AND 7)2. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE STATE
DEPARTMENT ON 7/27/95.STATE 180590 280749Z 024319 0847885
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN
JULY 27, 1995

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STATEMENT BY NICHOLAS BURNS, SPOKESMAN

FREEDOM HOUSE

THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED ON JULY 27 IN WINNING
CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR THE U.S.-BASED NONGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION, FREEDOM HOUSE, WITH THE U.N. ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC), OVERTURNING AN EARLIER NEGATIVE
DECISION BY A SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE. CUBA AND CHINA LED
THE OPPOSITION TO FREEDOM HOUSE. THE STATES OPPOSING THE
ACCREDITATION OBJECTED TO FREEDOM HOUSE BECAUSE OF ITS
CRITICISMS OF THOSE COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUES OF DEMOCRACY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FINAL VOTE WAS 31 IN FAVOR OF
ACCREDITING FREEDOM HOUSE, 11 OPPOSED, AND 10 ABSTAINED.3. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON
7/27/95. SPOKESMAN NICHOLAS BURNS USED THE FIRST ANSWER
AT THE PRESS BRIEFING THAT DAY. THE REMAINDER MAY BE
USED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

4. CHINA: UPDATE ON HARRY WU

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT REPORTS THAT HARRY WU HAS
CONFERRED TO FALSIFYING INFORMATION IN HIS TELEVISION

DOCUMENTARIES?

A. WE HAVE ONLY SEEN PRESS REPORTS AND BROADCASTS OF
EXCERPTS OF A VIDEOTAPE ABOUT THIS.-- AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT YET HAVE ENOUGH
INFORMATION TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE TAPE.-- AS TO CONFESSION, ALL WE HAVE SEEN ARE PRESS
REPORTS.

-- WE STILL BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.

-- NATURALLY, WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MR.
WU'S WELFARE.-- WE CONTINUE TO PRESS TO SEE MR. WU IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ARTICLE 35 OF THE U.S.-CHINA CONSULAR
CONVENTION WHICH PROVIDES FOR MONTHLY CONSULAR
ACCESS.-- SINCE MR. WU'S DETENTION, WE HAVE RAISED AND WILL
CONTINUE TO RAISE HIS CASE WITH CHINESE
AUTHORITIES.

IF ASKED ONLY:

Q. DO WE BELIEVE THE ALLEGED CONFESSION WAS VOLUNTARY?

A. AGAIN, WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO
COMMENT.

Q. WHAT IS MR. WU'S LEGAL STATUS AT THIS TIME?

A. THE CASE REMAINS IN THE INVESTIGATION STAGE.

5. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCES, ALSO PREPARED ON
7/27/95, WERE NOT USED AT THE BRIEFING. POSTS MAY DRAW
FROM THEM ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

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PA Exemptions	
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS/FPC/CDR
Date: NOV 29 1990

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6. JAPAN: POW LAWSUIT

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SUIT FILED BY FIVE ALLIED POW'S FROM WWII?

A. THE CHARGE AT OUR EMBASSY IN TOKYO MET WITH SOME OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THE SUIT EARLIER THIS WEEK. SIMILARLY, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE TALKED WITH SOME OF THESE FORMER POW'S IN THE PAST.

-- WE ARE VERY SYMPATHETIC TO THE TERRIBLE SUFFERING EXPERIENCED BY THESE FORMER POW'S AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON AN ON-GOING LEGAL ACTION.

NOTE TO THE BRIEFER:

-- UNDER THE TREATY OF PEACE OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1951, JAPAN GAVE THE WWII ALLIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE RIGHT TO SEIZE AND DISPOSE OF JAPANESE ASSETS IN ORDER TO SATISFY THEIR WAR CLAIMS AS WELL AS THOSE OF THEIR CITIZENS. IN

RETURN, THE ALLIED POWERS -- INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES -- WAIVED ANY RIGHT TO FURTHER REPARATIONS OR CLAIMS. ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRAINED FROM REQUESTING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT REPARATIONS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE HELD BY THE JAPANESE AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

-- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WAR CLAIMS ACT OF 1948, AS AMENDED, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED AND ADMINISTERED TEN PRISONER OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS FOUR WAR DAMAGE AND LOSS PROGRAMS. ALL PAYMENTS UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS RELATING TO CLAIMS AGAINST JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II WERE MADE FROM THE LIQUIDATION OF JAPANESE ASSETS BLOCKED AND VESTED IN THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT, RATHER THAN FROM MONIES APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUES OF THE UNITED STATES. THE DEADLINES FOR FILING CLAIMS UNDER EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS EXPIRED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THE CLAIMS PROGRAMS ARE NOW COMPLETE AND RECOVERY UNDER THEM IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

7. SINGAPORE: 1HT LIBEL TRIAL

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DECISION BY A SINGAPORE COURT TO ORDER THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE TO PAY LIBEL DAMAGES OF USD 678,000 TO THE COUNTRY'S THREE TOP LEADERS?

A. THE JUDGMENT GROWS OUT OF A PERSONAL LIBEL SUIT

BROUGHT AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE BY SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, HIS SON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER B.G. LEE, AND PRIME MINISTER GOH. THE SUIT RESULTS FROM AN AUGUST 2, 1994 OPINION PIECE IN THE 1HT BY PHILIP BOWRING ENTITLED "THE CLAIMS ABOUT 'ASIAN' VALUES DON'T USUALLY BEAR SCRUTINY."

-- I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU REGARDING THE SPECIFIC LEGAL ISSUES OF THIS CASE.

-- HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A UNIVERSAL RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR NATIONALITY OR CULTURE

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